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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4200

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4455

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 3298

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 9653

RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2337

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 9314

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 7759

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY 6093

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 0145

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 1439

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SUBJECT: JAPAN'S CONTINUING EFFORTS FOR BURMESE DISASTER

RELIEF

REF: A. TOKYO 1261

1B. STATE 48651

11. (SBU) Japan continues to seek ways to provide assistance to Burma in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, as reported ref A. Foreign Minister Masahiko Koumura announced May 9 the GOJ will provide USD \$10 million in emergency aid to be distributed primarily through international organizations including UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Overseas Disaster Assistance Division Director Takashi Koizumi told AID Counselor May 12 discussions are ongoing in Rome, New York and Geneva as to how to distribute and utilize these and other funds.

12. (SBU) Japan also delivered two shipments of emergency in-kind supplies, including generators, tents and blankets, totaling approximately USD \$570,000 May 7 and 11 via commercial aircraft to Rangoon, Koizumi stated. Burma's Ministry of Social Welfare accepted the shipments and is reportedly distributing the supplies, but neither Japanese officials nor NGOs have been able to monitor the process. Koizumi said two Japanese nationals working for the Red Cross in Malaysia are currently in Burma, but Rangoon has yet to accept Japan's offer to send emergency medical teams.

13. (SBU) The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) maintains a permanent office in Rangoon with more than thirty Japanese and local staff who are all assisting with the relief effort, Koizumi continued. In addition, five relief workers working for the Japan Platform, an umbrella organization representing many Japanese NGOs, entered Burma using tourist passports May 10. The workers are distributing food, clothes and other goods, and are also conducting a needs assessment. Japan Platform is preparing to send an additional five staff, including two from Save the Children Japan, within the next several days, Koizumi stated.

DONOVAN